MR. M. N. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: Will the member be pleased to state whether more free licenses are given for tapping sweet toddy?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN: I do not know what the member means by '*more*'.

MR. M. N. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: Whether there is any instruction issued by the department to give more free licenses for tapping sweet toddy?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN: We have sweet toddy rules, and license rates issued under those rules.

MR. M. N. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: Are there no instructions given?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN: There are rules and when applications are received licenses will be issued under the rules.

MR. M. N. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: May I know how many applications are pending now?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN: I claim notice.

Detection of offences by officers of the Excise Department.

70. MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI: With reference to the statement "The fall.....is attributed to the better preventive work turned out by the departmental officers" appearing under detection of offences in the G. O. reviewing the report of the Excise Department for the years 1104 and 1105, will the Government be pleased to state the action taken by them against the departmental officers for not turning out such preventive work during 1106 and 1107?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN: Government did not take any action against any officer, because in the opinion of Government there was no neglect of duty on the part of any officer.

MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI: May I know from the member whether from the view expressed in the reports for 1104 and 1105 which is stated in the question, Government think that the officers are vigilant?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN: That is what the Government think.

MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI: May I know from the member, the reasons, if any, that made Government change the principle upon which vigilance in work is being judged?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN: Crimes are not always increasing or decreasing. Crimes may rise or fall.

MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI: Sir, that is not my question. May I know from the member the reasons, if any, which prompted Government to change their former decision, that is, the fall was attributed formerly to the better preventive work turned out by the departmental officers? May I know why the Government changed their opinion which they formed during the last two years?

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MR. C. O. MADHAVAN: There was no change of opinion on the part of Government.

MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI: May I read the question, Sir? "The fall is attributed to the better preventive work turned out by the departmental officers." Now there is an increase in the number of offences. Does it mean that there is better preventive work?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN: Whatever be the amount of preventive work crimes sometimes increase.

MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI: That is not my question. "The fall is attributed to the better preventive work turned out by the departmental officers." But now the offences have increased. Is there better preventive work?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN: There is no lack of preventive work.

MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI: Then what is the increase due to?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN: Increase is due to a larger number of people resorting to malpractices.

MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI: In view of the information supplied by Government last year, how do the Government view this increase in the number of offences?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN: It is due mainly to the economic depression.

MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI: Formerly how did they view this increase?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN: That is all that I can say.

MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI: My question is, last year when offences were less, Government viewed that as due to better preventive work. Now offences have increased. Do Government view this increase, as due to better preventive work or no preventive work?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN: Offences are on the increase mainly due to the economic depression, because people then resort more and more to illicit practices.

MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI: That is why I ask, do the Government view this as better preventive work or no preventive work?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN: Government do not view it as due to lack of preventive work.

MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI: May I know whether Government have changed their opinion?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN: Situation has changed, but the Government have not changed their opinion.

PRESIDENT: You must be satisfied with it, Mr. Piraviperumal Pillai.

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MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil* cum *Nedumangad*) : Is it stated in the report that it is on account of the economic depression that offences increased in 1106 and 1107 ?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN : It is mainly due to that.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI : May I know whether it is on account of the vigilance of the department that the offences were on the increase during 1104 and 1105 ?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN : These two forces, vigilance on the part of the officers and the inclination or tendency on the part of the people to resort to malpractices, are always working one against the other.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI : May I know when the economic depression began ? Is the member aware that the economic depression was more active in 1104 and 1105 than in 1106 and 1107 ?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN : No, it is not so. Economic depression made its appearance towards the close of 1105 and it was on the increase in 1106 and 1107.

MR. KATTIYATTU SIVARAMA PANICKAR (*Vaikam* cum *Shertallai*) : May I know whether this fall in the number of offiences was due to preventive work ?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN : More efficient preventive work may bring about a fall in the number of offences. But it cannot always be said that it is so when there is tendency on the part of the people to resort to malpractices.

MR. KATTIYATTU SIVARAMA PANICKAR : Can it not be said that the increase in the number of offences is due to lack of preventive work ?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN : It cannot be said always.

MR. KOCHIKAL P. BALAKRISHNAN TAMPI (*Mavelikara and Kartikapalli* cum *Kunnattur*) : May I know whether the increase in the detection of offences does not show the vigilance on the part of the Government ?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN : Yes.

MR. K. K. THOMAS (*Nominated*) : Is it the decision of Government that the decrease in the number of offences is only due to preventive work ?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN : No, that is not the decision.

MR. M. N. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI : It was stated in the Financial Secretary's speech that the special staff appointed for preventive work in the northern Division has collected materials required for organising new methods to prevent smuggling. Will the member be pleased to state what are the methods that have been found out ?

PRESIDENT : It does not arise.

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